



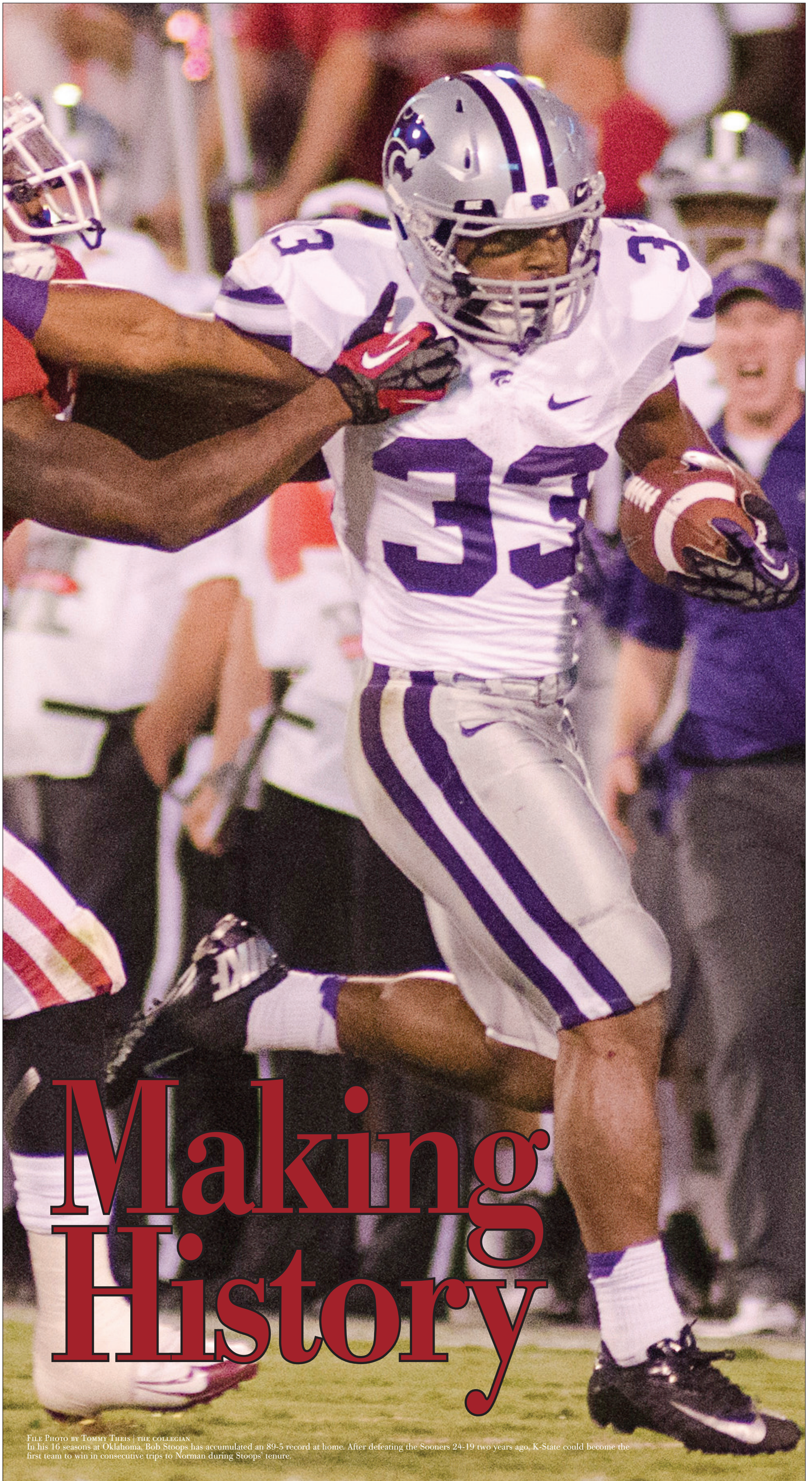
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GAMEDAY GUIDE



Making History

FILE PHOTO BY TOMMY THEIS | THE COLLEGIAN

In his 16 seasons at Oklahoma, Bob Stoops has accumulated an 89-5 record at home. After defeating the Sooners 24-19 two years ago, K-State could become the first team to win in consecutive trips to Norman during Stoops' tenure.

Toughness over size for No. 20

By EMILIO RIVERA
THE COLLEGIAN

Adversity isn't something new for senior running back DeMarcus Robinson, as he has been dealing with it since he strapped on cleats for head coach Weston Schartz at Wichita Northwest High School. Since his senior season for the Grizzlies, he has proven that it isn't his size that defines him, but the size of the fight.

"(Robinson) just wanted to win, he didn't care about personal glory, he wanted his teammates to have fun," Schartz said. "He would joke when it was time to joke and he would kick somebody's butt when it was time to kick somebody's butt, he knew the right buttons to push with his teammates."

Robinson amassed over 5,000 rushing yards in high school, including 1,720 rushing yards in his senior season. His performance was enough to garner a first-team class 6A all-state selection, but he didn't let it define him. Whether it was teachers raving about him in the classroom or expanding his social boundaries within the school, Robinson became a student that Northwest was proud to have.

"He worked very hard, but I always thought that (Robinson) knew there was more to life than just football game, because football is important to him but it wasn't the only



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior running back **DeMarcus Robinson** stays ahead while Stephen F. Austin players chase him on Aug. 30 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

thing," Schartz said. "He valued his friends, his family, but when it was time to work, he worked hard."

In high school, his 5-foot-7 frame scared many coaches from taking a chance on the all-state athlete. Luckily for Robinson, there was one coach in particular who wasn't scared away. He brought back a memories of

a former athlete that garnered plenty of attention in his college days for the Wildcats, while continuing to excel for the Philadelphia Eagles in 2014.

"I knew that (Robinson) was a Division I player, but so many coaches are hung up on size, I was really worried," Schartz said. "When (head) coach (Bill) Snyder came, he

looked at him and said 'I'll take him.' A lot of people passed on him because of his size, and Snyder looked at me and said 'I had one like that before, his name is Darren Sproles,' Snyder took a chance."

Now for the Wildcats, Robinson is getting the chance that he has waited for since joining the team in 2010. When he first joined, he found himself in a competition at running back. It started with K-State's third-leading rusher in Wildcat history, Daniel Thomas in 2010. Then he played behind John Hubert, who ranks second all-time in Wildcat history in rushing yards.

Because of waiting in those seasons, and the talent he had around him all those years, he developed talent and experience to make his presence known out of the backfield in 2014-15.

"DeMarcus (Robinson) is the most experienced back that we have and he has been very patient with us up to this time," Snyder said before the season. "(DeMarcus) understands our offense, he can execute our offense. Fundamentally, he is

very sound."

A part of this experience for Robinson is being able to contribute to the Wildcats game plan in the passing game. Coming into Manhattan, Robinson wasn't known as a big dual-threat running back, but rather a hard hitting player that would give up his body to block a defender.

"He always blocked well, because he's tough, but he couldn't catch a cold in high school," Schartz said. "K-State has done a great job (in helping him) and he's done a great job in developing (what he's learned). In high school he didn't have the best hands and he knew that was a weakness."

His dual-threat ability has become one of Robinson's biggest strengths. He has become another option in the passing game for quarterback Jake Waters and in his limited opportunities catching the ball this season, Robinson averages 10.7 yards per catch.

"He is versatile, he can do it all," Waters said. "(DeMarcus) can catch it out of the backfield, run, or block. He can

just do it all and that is huge for us and huge for my confidence when he's back there (in the backfield.)"

It's not his dual-threat ability or his hard hitting attitude that gets the most attention from his teammates and coaches. It is his ability to put the team before himself and to put the success of the team over any and every personal goal.

"He's great, ultimate team player, I don't hear him complain a bit about 'hey I need a carry' or 'get me into the end zone,'" Waters said. "He'll do whatever it takes, if it takes him blocking a defensive end or a guy blitzing for us to throw, he'll do it. I don't ever hear him complaining."

Paying dues is a term that is thrown around for players who have to work to get into the lineup. Through four years, Robinson has had to pay his dues.

"Obviously, being up (at K-State) he's waited his turn," Schartz said. "He's never cried, complained or moaned and this year he's finally gotten his chance."



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State senior running back **DeMarcus Robinson** takes the hand off from quarterback Jake Waters on Aug. 30 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State running back **DeMarcus Robinson** escapes the UTEP defense for a touchdown on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

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Games to watch: two top-15 matchups highlight Big 12 competition

By TATE STEINLAGE
THE COLLEGIAN



No. 4 Baylor vs. West Virginia
11 a.m., FOX Sports 1
(Line: Baylor -8)

Baylor senior quarterback Bryce Petty was the unanimous pick for preseason offensive player of the year in the Big 12. However, West Virginia senior signal-caller Clint Trickett looks like a better candidate for the award six games in.

Trickett ranks third nationally with 2,203 passing yards this season. His 12 touchdowns and 68.5 completion percentage comes as no surprise to this Mountaineers team, but for everyone outside of Morgantown, West Virginia it's been a star-studded showing for a guy who spent time on the bench last year due to injury.

Behind the play of their quarterback, West Virginia has jumped out to a 4-2 start, with losses only to the then No. 2 and No. 4-ranked teams in college football. A comeback victory against Texas Tech last weekend has the Mountaineers trending upward at the right time.

Baylor, too, is coming off a come-from-behind stunner over TCU last weekend, in which the Bears used a fourth-quarter passing frenzy to spoil the Horned Frogs' party in Waco.

This clash should be a fun one.



No. 15 Oklahoma State vs. No. 12 TCU
3 p.m., FOX Sports 1
(Line: TCU -9)

Following the game above on FOX Sports 1, Oklahoma State and TCU will do battle in a matchup of two national-ranked teams.

TCU lost a heartbreaker over the weekend, while Oklahoma State won on the road, but neither team can feel too good about their respective re-



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

The Oklahoma State Cowboys surge from the tunnel and take to the field before their game against the K-State Wildcats on Oct. 5, 2-13 in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

sults. The Horned Frogs blew a 21-point lead in the fourth quarter in their biggest game since joining the conference in 2012. Oklahoma State struggled on the road in Lawrence against a downtrodden Jayhawks team, pulling out a win late to beat Kansas 27-20.

Junior quarterbacks Daxx Garman for Oklahoma State and Trevone Boykin for TCU have both stepped up to lead their teams to success so far this season. With Saturday looking like a duel through the air, it may come down to defense and turnovers to decide which team remains in the thick of the conference-title hunt.



Iowa State vs. Texas
7 p.m., WatchESPN
(Line: Texas -12.5)

With all this talk about championships and playoff scenarios, it's easy to forget that some teams are just simply looking for some wins. Such is the case for both Iowa State and Texas.

Iowa State snapped a two-game losing streak last weekend in an unusual out-of-conference game at home against Toledo. However, the win wasn't exactly comfortable, as the Cyclones rode the coattails of junior quarterback Sam Richardson and his 351 passing yards to a 37-30 victory.

Texas fell behind to Okla-

homa 31-13 early in the fourth quarter Saturday before scoring 13-unanswered points in a 31-26 loss. The Longhorns will have to hang their hats on that fact if they hope to rebound from a 2-4 start with a win at home against Iowa State in week eight.



Kansas vs. Texas Tech
2:30 p.m.
(Line: Texas Tech -14)

You know things are bad when you let a solid road win slip from your hands late in the fourth quarter. You know things are really bad when you blow a chance to capture your second conference win in three years. But that's the reality for Texas Tech and Kansas this season.

The Red Raiders should be 3-3, coming off a good road win in Morgantown over West Virginia. But alas, Mountaineers quarterback Clint Trickett had other ideas. Kansas should be in the same boat when it comes to record. The Jayhawks nearly took to their goalposts in celebration last weekend, but a 99-yard kickoff return with less than seven minutes to play put that plan on the back burner.

If you're a fan of struggling football, this game is for you.



No. 21 Texas A&M vs. No. 7 Alabama
2:30 p.m., CBS
(Line: Alabama -12)

Just a few weeks ago, this

matchup was figured to be a heavy-hitter battle of two top-10 teams. However, three losses between the two teams in as many weeks has fans a little less enthusiastic for this one.

Texas A&M enters Saturday on a two-game losing streak, albeit to the No. 1 and No. 3 teams in the country. Sophomore quarterback Kenny Hill hasn't quite played to expectations thus far, but he'll be needed if the Aggies have any chance at knocking off Alabama on the road in a stadium where the Crimson Tide haven't lost since 2012.

Q-and-A with senior sports columnist Jenni Carlson of the Oklahoman

By ADAM SUDERMAN
THE COLLEGIAN

Q: Within the last two weeks, Oklahoma's reputation has shifted from a near playoff lock to one of three or four teams who have a good shot at winning the Big 12. How do you feel head coach Bob Stoops has handled this with the team?

A: Frankly, Oklahoma had so many struggles against TCU that I'm not sure Stoops could focus on the whole change in reputation. He had to worry about why his offensive line was struggling to block and his quarterback was struggling to throw and his defense was struggling to defend the pass. The warts uncovered in the TCU game have undoubtedly been the focus in the past week, plus that probably helped this team to focus its attention on getting better instead of worrying about the playoff.

Q: Although it wasn't pretty, winning games like this past Saturday can be huge. What was the mood like for this team after pulling out a close victory over Texas?

A: The mood after beating

Texas is always upbeat. Now, there was plenty of hand-wringing in the fanbase and the media. Many of the issues that cost Oklahoma against TCU were still evident against Texas, even though the Sooners beat the Longhorns. So there are still plenty of reasons for concern. But, for the players and the coaches, they realize that beating Texas is an absolute must. And even though they weren't always at their best Saturday, they figured out a way to win and that was reason to celebrate.

Q: What has been most impressive in the development of Samaje Perine?

A: The fact that he seems to get stronger as the game goes on has been most impressive to me. Remember, this guy is a true freshman playing running back. That's an extremely physically demanding position, but he has managed the physicality plus the learning curve of being a freshman. We heard throughout the summer and preseason that Perine had been impressive in workouts and practice, and yet, I don't think anyone could've imagined he'd be this refined, powerful or effective this early in his career.

Q: There has always been an interest in Blake Bell in the state of Kansas since he played high school football here. How do you feel he has embraced the change of pace as he progresses toward the end of his career?

A: Would Bell prefer to still be playing quarterback? If you put truth serum in him, I suspect he'd say yes. But the hallmark of his career has been doing what's best for the team. Whether it was running the Bell-dozzer, being the second-team quarterback or moving to tight end, Bell has always done what was needed. And at tight end, he has done well. He is blocking well, catching well and playing well. I'm not sure what this means for his future, but with his willingness to do whatever has been needed during his career — his legacy as a Sooner — is secure.

Q: Simply put, winning in Norman, Oklahoma is no easy task. However, K-State is one of the few to pull it off in recent years. How do you feel that will impact the Sooners as they prepare for Snyder's crew?

A: Do some of the players remember losing to K-State at



COURTESY OF THE OKLAHOMAN

home a couple years ago? Sure. But I'm of the opinion that a lot of these guys wake up in a new world every day. They have short memories, so what happened two years ago seems long ago and far away. The thing you can definitely say, though, is the Sooners know that they're in for a battle. The Wildcats don't beat themselves, they're

physical and they'll beat you if you're not ready.

Q: Do you have a score prediction for the game? If so, a few sentences detailing that would be great!

A: I'll go Oklahoma 31, K-State 23. The reason that I'm picking Oklahoma is that we know way more about the

Sooners than the Wildcats. K-State hasn't really played anyone good beyond Auburn, and I'm just not convinced that the Wildcats are as good as their ranking. Could K-State win? Sure. But since we haven't seen the Wildcats win a road game this big or beat a team this good, I'll go with the Sooners in a close game.

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Top 5 Big 12 defensive players: TCU's Dawson takes over No. 1 spot



AUSTIN EARL
THE COLLEGIAN

No. 1: TCU LB Paul Dawson (Last week: 2)

Dawson was not the reason his unit allowed 61 points to Baylor. He was disruptive with two sacks, a pass breakup and a forced fumble. He also had 18 total tackles in the contest. After Saturday's performance, he is first in the Big 12 in tackles per game with 11.0 and fourth in tackles for loss with 1.40 per contest.

After facing two top five teams, TCU faces another challenge with No. 15 Oklahoma State. The squad is 25th in the country in points per game (37.2), so Dawson will have a sizable challenge with head coach Mike Gundy's offensive units.

No. 2: Kansas LB Ben Heeney (Last week: 3)

Heeney's team lost on Saturday, but he had a monster game with 14 total tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss and a sack. The Jayhawks allowed just 3.1 yards per carry, which slowed down Oklahoma State's prolific offense.

Heeney leads the Big 12 in total tackles and tackles for loss. His relentless pursuit of the ball makes him a humongous asset for the Kansas defense.

Kansas will face Texas Tech on Saturday and because of Heeney and his presence in the front seven, the Red Raiders will be forced to do most of their offensive work through the air, so Heeney will be forced to make his presence in a different way.

No. 3: Baylor DE Shawn Oakman (Last week: unranked)

Oakman earned a spot in the power rankings this week because of his play earlier in the season. He had a nice day on Saturday, which added to an impressive list of games for him so far in 2014. He had seven tackles and one tackle for loss in his team's wild victory against TCU.

He also recovered a fumble.

Oakman has been very disruptive in the backfield throughout the season. He ranks second in the Big 12 in sacks per game, as well as fifth in tackles for loss per game.

The junior pass rusher must get to the quarterback this week when his team faces West Virginia. The Mountaineers earn the seventh most yards per game through the air, so Oakman's pass rush will be vital for his unit's success.

No. 4: Oklahoma CB Zack Sanchez (Last week: unranked)

Sanchez's season has been all about creating havoc in the secondary. He has intercepted a pass in each of the Sooners' victories this season.

Last week against Texas, Sanchez turned his interception into a 43-yard touchdown. His five takeaways this season are the most in the Big 12. He has broken up three additional passes, which brings his total of passes defended to eight. That is tied for the third best in the Big 12.

The Sooner's opponent this week is K-State. A lot of the pressure for the defense to play well falls on Sanchez's shoulders. If Sanchez can disturb the Wildcats' offense, Oklahoma has a good chance of earning a victory.

No. 5: Texas DT Malcolm Brown (Last week: 1)

After starting the season strong, Brown has had pedestrian numbers in his past two games. He has not had a sack or a tackle for loss since the Longhorn's matchup against Kansas.

Brown is still a force in the middle of the field. It is difficult for defensive tackles to accumulate many stats because it's easy to double team them with a center and a guard. Brown's ability to command double teams frees up his teammates to make plays. That's why Texas is tied for the conference lead in sacks.

Brown could start making plays for himself again on Saturday against Iowa State. The Cyclones offense has not been good, so look for Brown to have a big day.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in fishing, wildlife and conservation biology. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

K-State rushing defense: where does it rank?

1. Louisville, 60.3 ypg
2. Penn State, 60.8 ypg
3. Alabama, 68.8 ypg
4. K-State, 81.4 ypg
5. Michigan State, 81.5 ypg
6. Virginia, 91.5 ypg
7. BYU, 92.2 ypg
8. Michigan, 93.6 ypg
9. Boston College, 99.8 ypg
10. Stanford, 99.8 ypg

Best units in K-State history

- 2002, 69.5 ypg
- 2001, 96.5 ypg
- 2000, 98.2 ypg
- 1998, 98.3 ypg
- 2009, 105.4 ypg
- 2003, 108.8 ypg
- 1999, 111.0 ypg
- 1995, 114.0 ypg
- 1969, 118.2 ypg
- 2012, 126.8 ypg

Top 5 Big 12 offensive players: West Virginia's White makes his debut



EMILIO RIVERA
THE COLLEGIAN

No. 1: Baylor QB Bryce Petty (Last week: 1)

After a hard test against an upset-minded Texas team two weeks ago, Petty silenced his critics and threw for 510 yards and six touchdowns against a TCU defense that was being hailed as one of the best defenses in the Big 12 and in the country.

He stands as the lead of Baylor's potent offense that ranks first in every – yes every – offensive team statistic in the Big 12. He carries an impressive 17-2 record as the starter for the fourth-ranked Bears. The bad news for the Big 12 is that with his back coming closer to full strength, Petty's arm will keep his team in the hunt for a potential national championship playoff berth.

No. 2: West Virginia QB Clint Trickett (Last week: 4)

Consistency has been Trickett's greatest asset in 2014-15. While he doesn't strike much respect out of the media for being in the category of Petty and Knight, he has proven that he is a legitimate threat to any defense.

Behind an average of 367.2 passing yards per game, Trickett tops the list in the Big 12 for that statistical category. Many assumed that once the Big 12 season was in full swing, his passing numbers would have dropped off. While he hasn't responded with another 500-yard game like he showed against Maryland, he has yet to drop below the 300-yard mark in a game this season.

No. 3: K-State QB Jake Waters (Last week: 2)

In a league full of the pro-style, pass-first quarterbacks, you could make an argument that

Waters is the most mobile quarterback in the Big 12. TCU's Trevone Boykin comes in a close second, however. Even with the strength of his legs, Waters' ability to step back and throw is one of the conference's best. Overall, his ability to create yardage in both offensive platforms is an extremely valuable asset.

Waters leads his team and ranks eighth in the league in rushing yards per game, averaging 64 yards on the ground. Add in Waters' ability to get out of the pocket and find an open target and you have as well-rounded of a quarterback as you're going to find.

No. 4: Oklahoma QB Trevor Knight (Last week: 3)

Simply put, the sophomore standout has once again slipped into the "pressure zone" that comes with playing for Bob Stoops and Oklahoma. Keeping the Sooners out of the loss column against Texas has aided his standing within our rankings. He has been criticized recently for his play when the stress gets turned on and that criticism is more than valid. He is significantly worse on third downs than on any other down, only completing 44.2 percent of his passes and throwing three interceptions.

Against the Longhorns, the Oklahoma offense struggled mightily on third down, converting only one of 11 attempts. However, a key conversion on the final drive of the game sealed the victory for Knight and company.

No. 5: West Virginia WR Kevin White (Last week: unranked)

In an often overlooked offense, White has become a standout next to his senior signal-caller Clint Trickett. He has a six-game streak of 100-plus receiving yards and has become his quarterback's favorite target.

Already racking up 888 receiving yards, White is on top of the nation's rankings in both receiving yards and yards per game. The senior wide receiver is a deep threat for any secondary he faces and can cause significant mismatches with his tall, physical frame. He will have his chance to prove how good he really is this weekend against one of the Big 12's best defenses as Baylor steps into Morgantown, West Virginia.

Emilio Rivera is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

Big 12 sports editor picks

The campus sports editors of the conference release the week 8 edition of their power rankings

No. 1

BAYLOR

No. 2

TCU

No. 3

OKLAHOMA

No. 4

KANSAS STATE

No. 5

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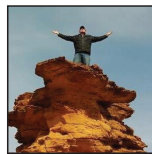
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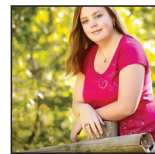
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By the Numbers

By TATE STEINLAGE
THE COLLEGIAN

714

Junior wide receiver Sterling Shepard's total receiving yards through six games

K-State fans often boast about their star-studded senior wide receiver, Tyler Lockett. Sooner fans do the same, only for Sterling Shepard.

The Oklahoma junior is off to a hot start, averaging 119 yards a game. Shepard may only have four touchdowns, but that's hardly alarming when he's coming up big in big-time games — his 215 yards against TCU being one example.

Unfortunately for Oklahoma, Shepard has been about it when it comes to receiving. The next four receivers combine for just 651 receiving yards and two touchdowns. So far Shepard has done well with the bullseye on his back, but defenses will find a way to slow him down at some point this season. This has everyone in Norman asking: Who will step up then?

89

Bob Stoops' home win total in 16 seasons at Oklahoma

Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium in Norman, Oklahoma has been a deathtrap for opposing teams for nearly two decades under head coach Bob Stoops. In fact, you can count on one hand the times Oklahoma has lost at home since 1999, Stoops' first year.

At just over 82,000 seats, Memorial Stadium is big enough to intimidate and small enough to make opposing teams feel like the crowd is breathing down their necks. That's why when K-State pulled off a major upset in 2012 over the then-sixth-ranked Sooners, so many around the country began to call the Wildcats National Title contenders.

Turnovers played a major part in that 24-19 K-State win two years ago, and will likely be a deciding factor Saturday in front of another packed house.

3

Number of teams K-State has held under 70 rushing yards this season

Through five games, K-State has faced the No. 14-ranked rushing offense and the No. 15-ranked leading rusher in the country (who was ranked fourth prior to facing K-State). Yet, the Wildcats are only giving up — what seems like — a microscopic average of 81.4 yards per game. That's good for fourth-best in FBS, in case you weren't aware.

To say this K-State defense is good at stopping the run would be an understatement. It's downright dominating. Auburn was held to their worst rushing total since head coach Gus Malzahn took over the program prior to last season. Stephen F. Austin, UTEP and Texas Tech rushed for 69, 59 and 46 yards, respectively.

As the last entry shows, if you can stop Oklahoma's running game, there's a good chance you'll still be in the game in the fourth quarter with a chance for glory. That may be all K-State needs to pull out a big road win.

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Oklahoma's average rushing yards in their last two games

Oklahoma's typical two-pronged offensive attack has been limited in their last two games due to their inability to consistently run the ball. The Sooners racked up a mere 103 yards on the ground last weekend against Texas, 30 of which came on one run by a wide receiver. A week prior, Oklahoma rushed for 151 yards in a 37-33 road loss against TCU.

With a first-year back running behind a laboring offensive line, it's no surprise the Sooners have stumbled out of the gate in conference play, especially against two of the conference's best defenses. K-State has shown the ability to stop the run this season, so expect Saturday to be "gut-check time" for the Oklahoma rushing attack.

Gone Fishing

Students present research at annual event

Lauren Garrison | COLLEGIAN

The third annual Midwest Fisheries Student Colloquium was held Friday and Saturday at the Konza Prairie Biological Station. The colloquium is hosted annually by the K-State Student Society of the American Fisheries Society.

The American Fisheries Society is a national group, and K-State has its own subunit made up of graduate and undergraduate students. According to the society's Web site, its mission is to "improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems."

The society accomplishes this goal by promoting events for students across the U.S. who are interested in or are studying fish or aquatic science.

The colloquium is meant to attract students attending universities around the Midwest who are studying fish or aquatic ecosystems.

Joe Gerken, president of the K-State group and graduate student in biology, said the purpose of the colloquium is to further the professional development of students studying fisheries at K-State and other Midwestern universities.

There were 45 students who attended from Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas.

"Friday night consisted of a meal, social and poster session," said Andrea Severson, secretary and treasurer of the K-State group and graduate student in fisheries.

Gerken said the purpose of the social was to engage the students in an informal environment to build professional relationships with one another.

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